



TRADITIONS FIRST BANK

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"Traditional Values - Traditional Service."

9/08/05

FDIC San Francisco Regional Office
Director John F. Carter
24 Jessie Street at Ecker Square
Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Wal-Mart

Dear Sir:

This letter is to serve as my adamant opposition to allowing Wal-Mart out of banking. I am from a small community in Tennessee. The fear of Wal-Mart even coming in our community brings a visible fear across the face of all competing small mom and pop stores. It pains me to watch as owners of local stores for generations visibly tremble at the rumors of a Wal-Mart store.

Bankers are now staring down the same barrel. I visibly tremble at the thought of Wal-Mart in banking. I could try to wax eloquent about the unfair competition; the conflicts of interest; the concentration of power to a single company. But, the experts can provide much more accurate and pertinent information.

I just want to tell my story and those of hundreds of small community banks across America. I was a part of a group that raised \$5,359,020.00 to start a small bank in our town. It took slightly over 200 families to pool their resources. It has been a wonderful success in a relative way. We are in our 5th year. The potential of Wal-Mart owning and operating a bank has been the top threat listed in the Strategic Plan since the day we opened. When a business has the power and the desire to displace a mom and pop store, a family or several families are forced to sell out or close up and start over. Wal-Mart has proven this is status quo when dealing with competition. Experts sometimes refer to this phenomenon as de-stabilizing communities. I shudder to think of what will happen when instead of closing the local hardware and grocery store owned and operated by a couple of families----the bank is closed owned by 200 families!!!! The de-stabilizing term will not suffice to explain the financial carnage.

2005 SEP 16 AM 9:50

Please use your influence to keep Wal-Mart out of banking. There are many reasons but the potential of closing hundreds of small community banks should be enough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Mitchell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Thomas Mitchell
President & CEO